

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on March 8, 2005.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 20, and 39-41 are amended, no claims are canceled, and claim 42 is added; as a result, claims 1-42 are now pending in this application. No new matter is proposed.

Applicant herein amends claims 1, 8 and 39 to clarify the claims thereby conforming the claims into closer accord with standard U.S. claim drafting practice.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully traverses as the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Northrop. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 40 now recites, in part, a decomposition chamber having a waste chamber inlet, said decomposition chamber housing a separator, a solid waste treatment means and a liquid waste treatment means, the separator including a substantially non porous inclined surface with a curved lower outer edge to allow solid waste to fall off the separator while liquid waste moves around the curved lower outer edge. Applicant can not find these features in Northrop. For example, applicant can not find a substantially non porous inclined surface with a curved lower outer edge to allow solid waste to fall off the separator while liquid waste moves around the curved lower outer edge. Applicant further notes that the office action states in paragraph 8, that the prior art fails to teach of fairly suggest the separator including a curved lower edge . . ." Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 40 are requested.

Claim 41 now recites, in part, "separating liquid and solid waste using a separator by having solid and liquid waste travel down an inclined, substantially non porous surface, allowing solid waste to fall off a lower edge of the surface, and having liquid waste travel around a lower curved edge of the surface." Applicant can not find these features in Northrop. For example, applicant can not find having solid and liquid waste travel down an inclined, substantially non

porous surface, allowing solid waste to fall off a lower edge of the surface, and having liquid waste travel around a lower curved edge of the surface. Applicant further notes that the office action states in paragraph 8, that the prior art fails to teach of fairly suggest the separator including a curved lower edge . . . that water moves around the curved lower edge while allowing solids to fall off the separator.” Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 41 are requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-39 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112 set forth in the Office Action. Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication that claims 1-39 are allowable. Applicant again asserts that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Allowance of claims 1-39 is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9587 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their Representatives,
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Date 8 June '05
By Timothy B. Clise
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8th day of June, 2005.

CANDIS BUENDING

Name

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